

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

1. Not more than 30 tanks were assigned to the armored unit which was quartered near the naval harbor in Liepaja. Most of the tanks were T-34s, and had that designation painted on them. Some of the tanks were not so marked, and were longer than the T-34, slightly higher, and considerably wider. These tanks were dark green in color, and the track width was 50-60 cm. The slope of the glacis plate was not as steep as that of the German Tiger tank. [redacted] one of these heavier tanks [redacted] was having its drive sprocket repaired in the workshops of Factory No. 29. [redacted] it had double bogie wheels and return rollers, [redacted] the barrel of the gun was about one and one-half times as long as the gun in the T-34, or about the length of the antiaircraft guns in the winter harbor of Liepaja. [redacted] the gun had no muzzle brake. These tanks had been stationed in and near the barracks next to the naval harbor since the end of World War II [redacted] in the summer following the explosion of the torpedo cleaning shop, an event which took place in 1947 or 1948.

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2. [redacted] there was no connection between this tank unit and the military unit south of the naval harbor bridge, known as Kalpaka Bridge. Although this bridge was wide enough for tanks, they never used it when crossing to the south from the naval harbor area, but went by the Aspazijas Birze (park) instead. In recent years, T-34 tanks came from the naval harbor and went along Suvorova Street (formerly Ganibu Street) to the Liepaja-Nica highway.

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3. Beginning in 1950, tanks were observed in Liepaja which were smaller, lower, and faster than the T-34s. They resembled diminutive T-34s, and were usually seen in groups of nine or ten. Their speed on roads was about 40 km. per hour, and their guns had muzzle brakes.

4. In the restricted area south of the bridge, between Sarkanarmijas Street and the sea, there were from four to eight barracks housing between 250 and 300 men. [redacted]

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5. A coast artillery unit had five or six guns between the naval harbor canal and the North Mole. The caliber of the guns was approximately 20 cm, and each gun was furnished with a metal shield, and was located within an earthen emplacement (see sketch No. 1 on page 4). The gun crews were billeted in two barracks

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; field distribution by "#".)

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which had been erected in 1940 at the northwest corner of Sarkanarmijas Street and the street that leads from the cathedral to the sea (see sketch No. 2 on page 5). Altogether there were three of these two-story, yellow brick barracks, but only the two nearer the sea were occupied by troops. The third barrack, the one nearest to Sarkanarmijas Street, had been damaged during the war, and was occupied by Soviet civilians. In 1948 [] a relief gun crew of eight men walking from the barracks toward the sea. []

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6. There was only one antiaircraft battery south of the naval harbor canal, between the former civil airport and the restricted area of the gasoline tanks. This battery was located to the east of the northern end of Ventspils Street (see sketch No. 3 on page 5). Here there were four antiaircraft guns not heavier than 37 mm. and of the same type as the guns found on destroyers like the STROGIY and the STROYNY. [] these guns had magazines containing five rounds. At this site there were also two lighter antiaircraft guns of approximately 20 mm. The barrel of this type of gun was about 2.5 meters in length, and was equipped with an equilibrator. [] this kind of gun was intended for use against low-flying aircraft. This battery never went into action during real (sic) air alarms, but only did practice firing.

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7. The antiaircraft battery east of Aspazijas Birze was located in an old fort at the southern end of a small island. This battery consisted of four guns not heavier than 37 mm., which were equipped with metal shields. This battery did not fire during air alarms. In the fall of 1952, this emplacement was improved by the addition of a brick wall, so that only the barrels of the guns could be seen.
8. The battery north of the Liepaja shipyard consisted of four antiaircraft guns of the same type as those east of Aspazijas Birze, but there were also some of the smaller caliber guns with the recoil spring. This battery did not fire during air alarms. The battery was also equipped with disk-shaped devices, which were mounted on stands and could be rotated in various directions (see sketch No. 4 on page 6). These devices resembled the radar installations on the cruiser KIROV. South of Liepaja Hospital, there were some similar but larger devices, which measured one and one-half or two meters in diameter.

9. South of the bridge which crosses the naval harbor canal, there were three or four dummy guns, which [] were more like coast artillery guns than antiaircraft guns.
10. The antiaircraft battery on the quay between the winter harbor and the free harbor consisted of four guns not heavier than 37 mm. This battery did fire during the air alarms.

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11. The antiaircraft battery on the shore at the end of Padomju Prospekt had four guns not heavier than 37mm., and was also equipped with radar devices [] during air alarms, but only did practice firing.

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12. There was a battery in the bushes south of the Liepaja Hospital near the canal. [] it sounded like a 37 mm. antiaircraft battery. It did not fire during the air alarms.

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13. At times when strange aircraft were over Liepaja, very heavy firing came from the area between the naval harbor canal and the North Mole, where the coast artillery guns were located. The firing was done in bursts of fire. []

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14. At the battery on Ventspils Street, and probably at some of the other batteries, there were tripods. Each tripod was fitted with a rotatable disk, but no guns were mounted on these tripods. [] these tripods were for antiaircraft machine guns.

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15. The dummy guns south of the bridge over the naval harbor canal were of heavier caliber than the 37 mm. antiaircraft guns, but of about the same length. There were two or three of the same kind of dummy guns on the small island at the northern end of Liepaja Lake. Up until 1949 or 1950, there had been an anti-aircraft battery located there, but it was removed in that period. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
16. [redacted] radio transmitter 25X1
located north of the naval harbor bridge. The area around the transmitter was enclosed by a barbed wire fence, inside of which there was stationed a sailor who wore shoulder boards with green piping. [redacted] all military personnel in that area were so uniformed, and thought that they were probably a naval coast guard unit. 25X1
17. After World War. II, several barracks were erected at the northwest corner of Jauna and Ganibu Streets. More than 100 infantrymen were billeted there, approximately one company. They were equipped with trucks and horses.
18. At the southeast corner of Darza Street and Apsu Street (aka Deboura Street), there were barracks of the prewar Latvian Army, in which a technical unit was billeted. These troops wore black shoulder boards, and, for that reason [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] they were an engineer unit. Trucks and amphibious vehicles belonging to this unit were located across Deboura Street from the barracks, and occupied the larger part of that block. There were two types of these amphibious vehicles, the larger of which had one propeller, and resembled the German "Schwimmwagen", except that they were nearly twice as large. There were about 10 of these vehicles in the yard. Smaller amphibious vehicles were located south of the town canal, between the barrel factory and the Baltija Match Factory (see sketch No. 5 on page 6). There were about 10 of these vehicles [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] There were also some trucks parked there. 25X1
19. The radar installation south of the former civil airport of Liepaja included a disk-shaped device mounted on a stand, and another device on four legs (see sketch No. 6 on page 7).
20. [redacted] the mobile radar installation 25X1
[redacted] was located six km. south of Liepaja. [redacted] there was a power plant in one of the four buildings about one km. north of Dzintarnieki, between the Liepaja-Nica highway and the sea. There were several hundred sailors stationed there, who wore shoulder boards with green piping. In 1940-1941, an acquaintance of source's worked at installing wires and cables in a power plant, which was located in a large deep basement of one of these buildings. Source thought that the plant was still intact, and that it could be furnishing electric power to the mobile radar installation, which was on the other side of the highway. 25X1
21. The radar installation on Ganibu Street, north of the central cemetery, had the same kind of equipment as the one at the former civil airfield (see sketch No. 7 on page 7).
22. Between 1948 and 1951, a mobile radio transmitter was located at the point where Grobinas Creek empties into Liepaja Lake. This transmitter consisted of three or four trucks and a metal pole with guy wires. One of the trucks resembled a trailer, and had three or four small objects on top, which looked like porcelain electrical insulators (see sketch No. 8 on page 8). [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] it was not a direction finder [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] There were several of these mobile installations in the Liepaja area. They usually changed site every three or four months. The one at Grobinas Creek was an exception, however, since it remained in the same spot for three years. 25X1
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23. Instructions for civil air defense came from the ISPOLKOM in Liepaja. Every factory, enterprise, and apartment house management was organized for civil defense. In Factory No. 29, the civil defense committee appointed workers to serve as medical aides, firemen, and aircraft spotters. In case of an alert, those so appointed were to report immediately to their group leader. Prior to

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August 1952, there had been no regular training in civil defense, and between that date and January 1953, the training consisted only of theoretical courses. It was expected, however, that there would be practical exercises later. In source's opinion, DOSAAF had nothing to do with this training activity.

24. [redacted] organization known as MPVO (Mestnaya Protivovozdushnaya Oborona = Local Civil Defense), [redacted] was not the name of the organization in charge of civil defense [redacted]

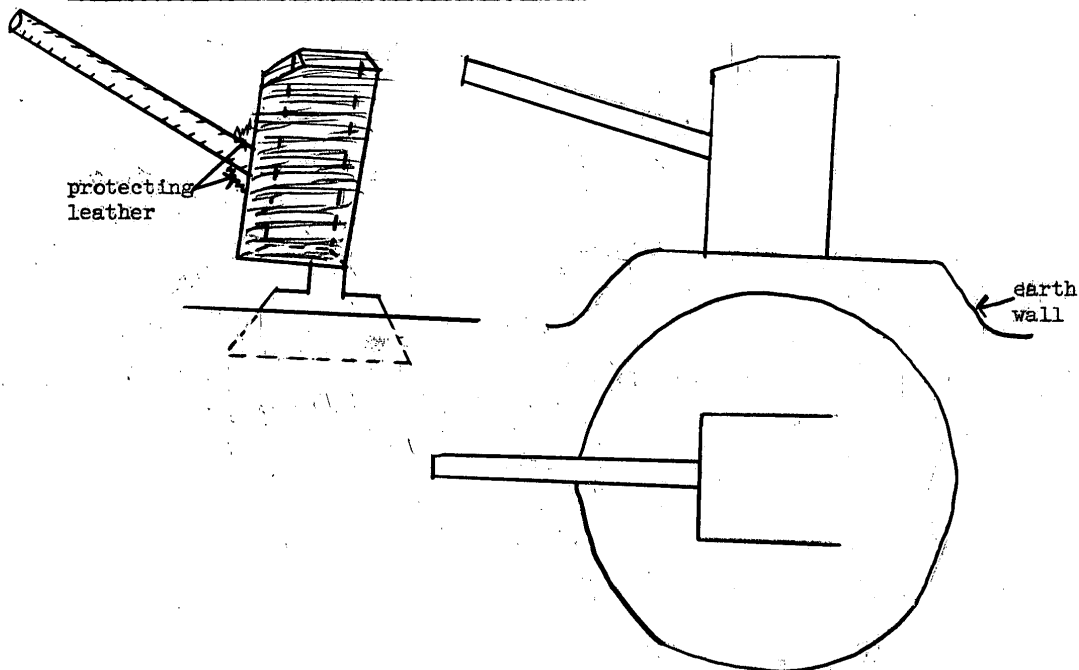
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Sketch No. 1

Sketch of Coast Artillery Gun Emplacement

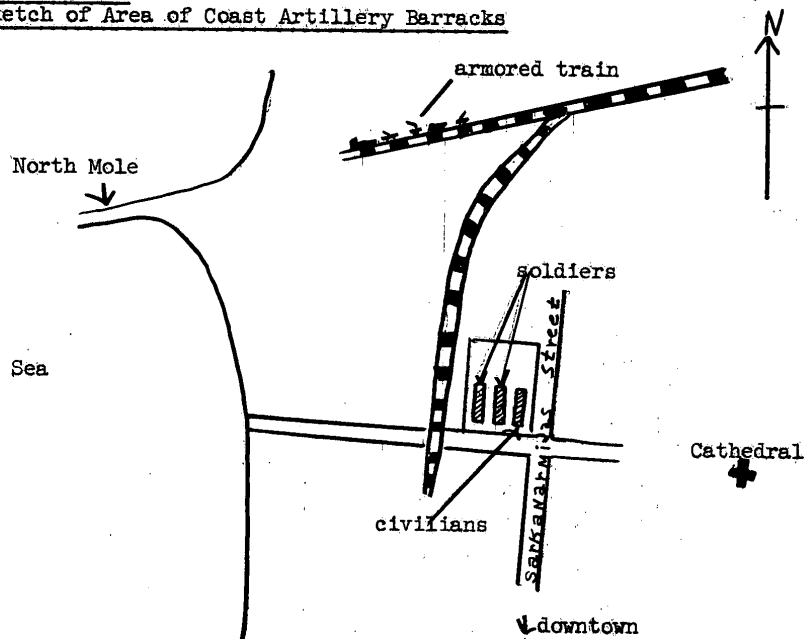
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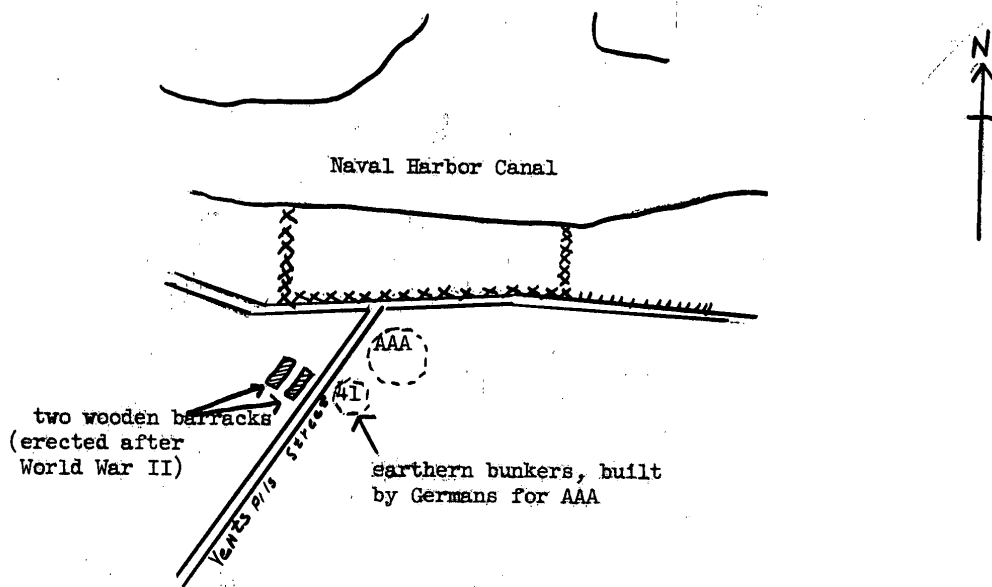
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Sketch No. 2.
Sketch of Area of Coast Artillery Barracks



Sketch No. 3
Sketch of Area of Antiaircraft Gun Emplacement

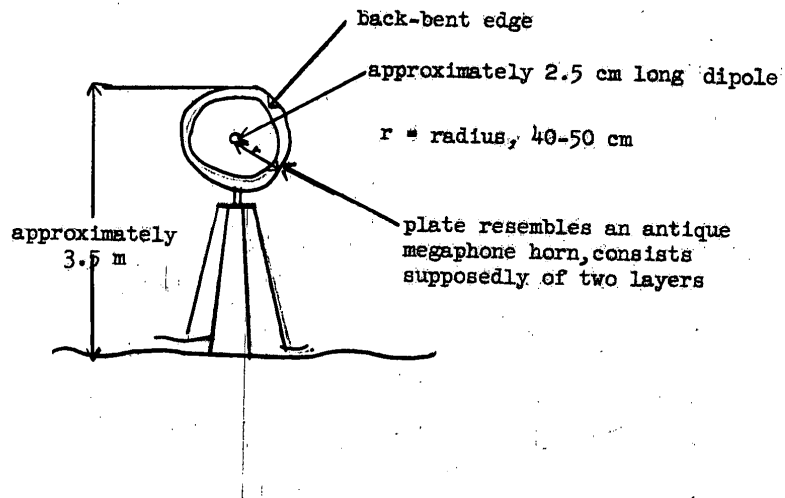
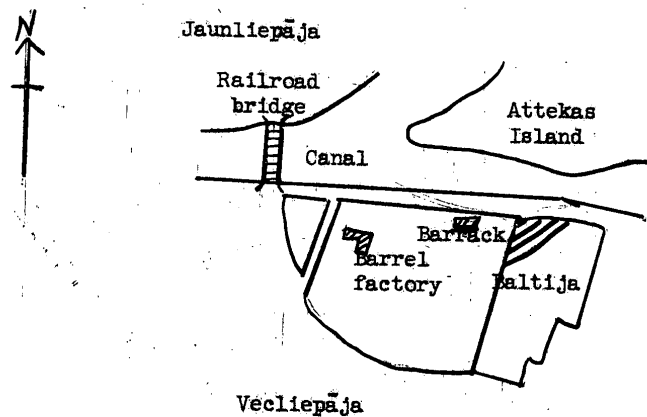


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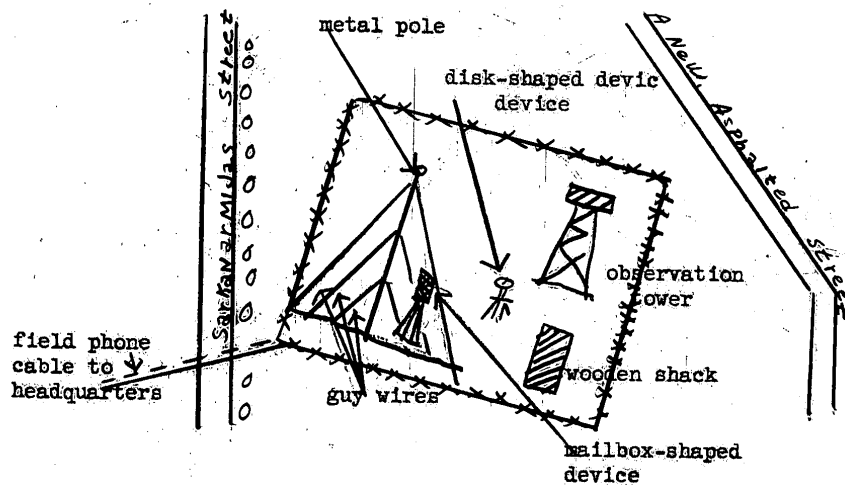
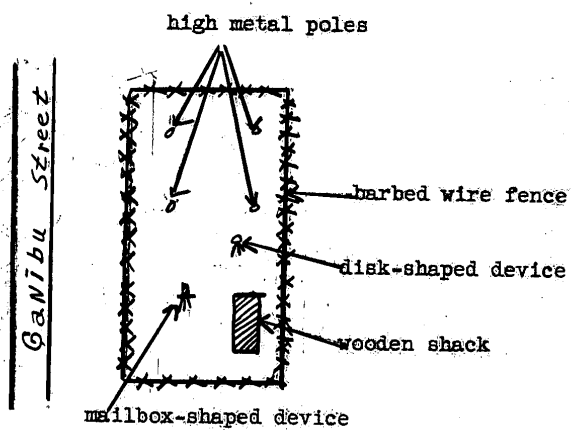
Sketch No. 4Sketch of Radar Device in Antiaircraft BatterySketch No. 5Sketch of Area Around Amphibious Vehicle Park

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Sketch No. 6Sketch of Radar Installation South of Former Civil AirfieldSketch No. 7Sketch of Radar Installation on Ganibu Street

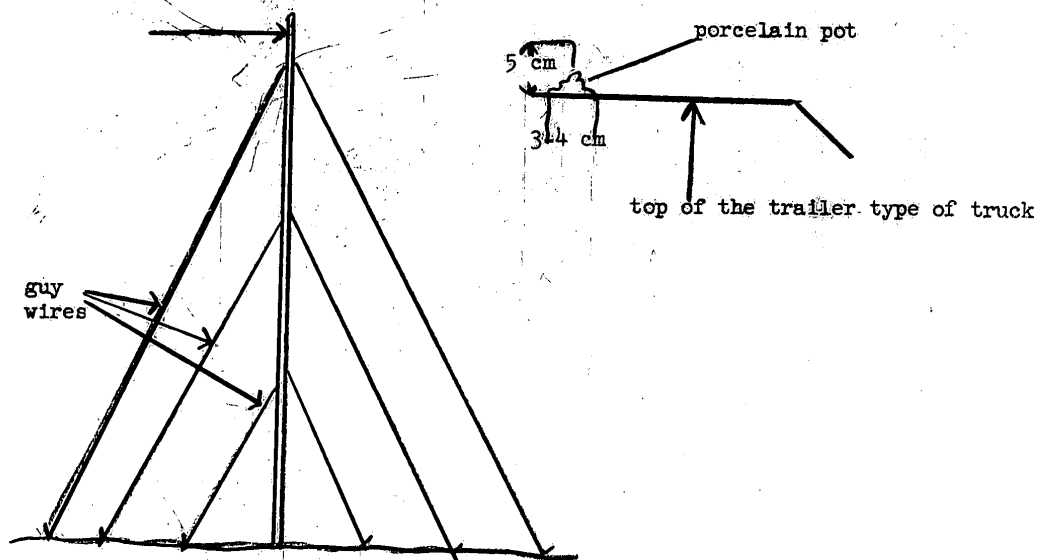
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Sketch No. 8
Sketch of Mobile Radio Installation



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